

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1 – 26 (canceled).

Claim 27 (new): A plastic container, which comprises:

a hollow body of plastic material having a lower supporting base, a sidewall extending upwardly from the lower base, and an upper neck portion with an opening therein, said neck portion extending upwardly from the sidewall, and said sidewall having a lower portion and an upper portion;

wherein the lower sidewall portion includes at least one lower panel having a central region and an outer boundary, with the outer boundary being depressed with respect to the central region, with the depressed outer boundary having side portions and top and bottom portions, and with said sidewall including opposed sidewall sections with said at least one lower panel at least in part extending substantially across a sidewall section; and

wherein the upper sidewall portion including a plurality of spaced upper panels having a central region and an outer boundary, with the central region of the upper panels including a raised central area surrounded by a depressed peripheral region, with the outer boundary being depressed with respect to the depressed peripheral region.

Claim 28 (new): A container according to Claim 27, wherein two opposed sidewall sections each include at least one of said lower panels.

Claim 29 (new): A container according to Claim 28, wherein the depressed outer boundary of the lower sidewall panels comprises a substantially continuous, channel-like structure which substantially circumscribes the central region.

Claim 30 (new): A container according to Claim 29, wherein said lower sidewall panels are one of oval, round and square with rounded corners.

Claim 31 (new): A container according to Claim 27, wherein the container is essentially round.

Claim 32 (new): A container according to Claim 31, wherein two opposed upper sidewall sections each include two of said spaced upper panels.

Claim 33 (new): A container according to Claim 32, wherein two opposed sidewall sections each include two of said lower panels.

Claim 34 (new): A container according to Claim 29, wherein the depressed outer boundary of the lower sidewall panels include curved corner portions.

Claim 35 (new): A container according to Claim 27, including a shoulder portion between the sidewall and upper neck portion.

Claim 36 (new): A container according to Claim 35, wherein the shoulder portion extends generally inwardly of the sidewall.

Claim 37 (new): A container according to Claim 28, wherein at least part of the side portions of said lower sidewall panels run adjacent the edges of a sidewall section.

Claim 38 (new): A container according to Claim 28, wherein said outer boundary of said lower sidewall panels include two, parallel, outer boundary portions spaced from each other with said parallel outer boundary portions being generally centrally located on said panel to separate said lower panel into side by side panel portions.

Claim 39 (new): A container according to Claim 38, wherein said side by side panel portions are separated by a vertical land, and wherein said parallel outer boundary portions are depressed with respect to said vertical land.

Claim 40 (new): A container according to Claim 39, wherein said side by side panel portions are on the lower sidewall portion, including two of said side by side panels positioned on opposed sidewall sections.

Claim 41 (new): A container according to Claim 38, including a recessed base with a plurality of outwardly extending struts.

Claim 42 (new): A container according to Claim 28, wherein the container sidewall includes a central sidewall portion between the lower and upper sidewall portions which is depressed with respect to the lower and upper sidewall portions.

Claim 43(new): A container according to Claim 42, wherein said central sidewall portion includes outwardly extending vertical columns.

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Claim 44 (new): A container according to Claim 41, including a peripheral base rim, wherein said outwardly extending struts extend between the recessed base and the peripheral base rim.

Claim 45 (new): A container according to Claim 28, wherein the raised central area of the upper panels is a generally round raised area.